



ALLENDALE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY 23, 2025

3803 Haines Road North
St. Petersburg, FL 33703

(727) 527-6694
office@allendaleumc.org

www.allendaleumc.org

WELCOME

Allendale United Methodist Church is a Reconciling Congregation. We affirm the sacred worth of all people and strive to practice Christ's example of unconditional love without exclusion. All are welcome to participate fully in the life and ministries of this congregation. Whatever your race, ethnicity, economic situation, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, background or belief, age or condition of ableness, whether single or partnered, you are God's beloved and are welcome here. God calls us to acts of love, grace, and advocacy to promote healing and reconciliation. We are building a new Allendale: a place without barriers, a sanctuary for all.

Office Hours: *Mon-Wed 9-4, Thu 10-4*

We are honored that you chose to worship with us today! To learn more about the life of the church, if you have a special need, or you wish to visit with the pastor, please contact the office at (727) 527-6694 or office@allendaleumc.org.

Gender Pronouns: Asking and correctly using someone's preferred pronoun is one of the most basic ways to show your respect for their gender identity. When someone is referred to with the wrong pronoun, it can do harm.

Childcare/Nursery: Located in the courtyard, the first room to the right as you leave the sanctuary building. Children are welcomed and encouraged to stay in worship, even if they are noisy! The nursery is available beginning at 10 AM for children younger than kindergarten.

Children's activity sheets and fidget bags are available in the narthex.

Changing table is available in the Nursery.

Unisex/family restrooms are in the office hallway, accessible from the narthex, to the left as you exit the sanctuary.

The balcony is open for those wishing to have more social distancing.

Holy Communion is typically celebrated on the first Sunday of the month.

Zoom links for Allendale's virtual events can be found at www.allendaleumc.org/online.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Thu Feb 27 Transnetwork Community Conversation (Sanctuary) 7 PM
Sat Mar 1 Racial Wealth Gap Learning Sim. (Mt. Zion UMC, 2751 Sunset Point Rd)
Wed Mar 5 Pankaj Farewell Meal (CC) 5 PM | Ash Wednesday (Sanctuary) 6 PM
Thu Mar 6 Church Council Meeting (Hybrid) 7 PM
Sat Mar 8 Intl. Women's Day St. Pete - Unite & Resist (277 Central Ave) 12 PM
Sat Mar 15 Free Concert: A Flutist Journey feat. Adrian McGrady (Sanctuary) 6 PM
Tue Mar 18 Social Justice Team Meeting (Community Center) 6 PM
Get more information about our upcoming events by visiting: www.allendaleumc.org/events

WORSHIP NOTES

TODAY'S LITURGIST:

ERIC SCHLECHT (he/him/his) was born in Atlanta the first of three boys. He spent his early life in Americus, GA, and moved to St. Pete, FL to his mom's childhood home in 1988. He attended SPHS and has an AA from SPJC - now SPC. Eric learned construction to employ himself for the last 25 years. He raised one son, Matthew, and his sister, Shayna, with a lot of help from family and friends. He was previously connected with First Presbyterian, and after the pandemic, Eric searched for something new, and found Allendale by its reputation for justice and the various marquee signs! He has found Allendale supporting each other, and tries to do God's work by Jesus' example out in the world every day.

TODAY'S MUSICIANS:

guitar/vocals - Dylan Dames
drums - Curtis Roberts
vocals - Beth Heisel

Join our band or choir: tru@allendaleumc.org

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God in celebration of the life of Ruth Spangler, who passed away January 11, 2025. We extend our deepest sympathy and blessings to her family at this time. We remember Ruth fondly for her dedication to God, and her service to Allendale.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRANS TRUTH TOWN HALL:

TransNetwork is hosting a community discussion on trans rights, community resilience, and what's next for Florida's trans and gender-expansive population. Speakers include Nathan Bruemmer and Dr. Byron Green-Calisch. This event takes place in the Sanctuary at Allendale UMC, Thu Feb 27 from 7-9 PM.

COOKING CLASS WITH PANKAJ DUTTA:

Join Pankaj Dutta for a hands-on cooking class Friday, Feb 28 from 3-6 PM, exploring curries, chicken, and vegetarian dishes. Classes will be held in the kitchen, with a shared meal afterward. Don't miss this delicious learning experience! Contact the Church Office to RSVP: 727-527-6694.

PRIDE & TRANS PINS:

We are selling Pride Flag and Trans Flag enamel pins in the shape of Florida. Pins are \$5 each and are available in the back of the Sanctuary.

RACIAL WEALTH GAP SIMULATION:

As part of the Black History Month celebration, Mt. Zion, First UMC Clearwater, and First UMC Pinellas Park are putting together a Racial Wealth Gap Learning Simulation. The simulation helps illustrate the connections among racial equity, hunger, poverty, and wealth. This event is at Mt. Zion UMC, 2751 Sunset Point, Clearwater at 11 AM on March 1. You're Invited!.

STEWARDSHIP

PRAYERS

In loving memory: Ruth Spangler 1928-2025
Service for Ruth will be Sun Feb 23 at 3 PM
Dan Leeper: cancer treatments

BIRTHDAYS:

Erica George	Feb 26
Chicago Ward	Feb 26
Mallory Edghill	Mar 4
Deborah Eldred	Mar 6
Becky Stoops	Mar 11
Alisha Adrian	Mar 12
Judy Collins	Mar 15
Nick Carey	Mar 16
Jeannine Smith	Mar 17
Donna Spear	Mar 18
Bill Munette	Mar 21

Birthday missing? Please contact the office

CARE AND SUPPORT:

Rev. David Franks, Minister of Pastoral Support
Office hours Tue 11-2 | Thu 4-7
make an appointment for care by calling the church office at 727-527-6694

LICENSED THERAPISTS AND COUNSELORS:

available at Allendale's Counseling Center
Visit www.allendaleumc.org/counseling

PRESENCE

Previous Sunday: 111 in-person, 432 online
Livestream: www.allendaleumc.org/online

WANT TO JOIN ALLENDALE?

The next opportunity:
Sun Mar 9 at 10:30 AM
Sign-up at: www.allendaleumc.org/join

GIFTS

Give online: www.allendaleumc.org/give
Text-to-give: Text amount to 727-312-0808
Buy a shirt: www.allendaleumc.org/shirts



Give Online now by scanning this code with your phone's camera

WITNESS

CANDLE OF PEACE, HOPE, AND JUSTICE:

During apartheid in South Africa, Johannesburg's Central Methodist Mission created a candle encircled in barbed wire, inspired by Amnesty International's symbol. They called it the Candle of Peace, Hope, and Justice. Each week, they lit the candle during worship, naming those harassed, imprisoned, or killed for resisting racial injustice. As they read John 1:5—"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it"—they rededicated themselves to justice. Their actions led the government to ban their services from radio and TV.

Today, we continue our new ritual of lighting a Candle of Peace, Hope, and Justice at the start of worship, joining 25 congregations across the country in prayer for those suffering under our government's barbed-wire policies—knowing that you cannot have peace and hope without justice.

This Sunday, we light the candle of Peace, Hope, and Justice for federal workers—for those whose jobs have been eliminated through an agency or bureau being unlawfully closed, those who have been told not to return to work after recently moving to the nation's capital to begin what was considered a solid job, those who have been purged from the payroll as an act of revenge or retaliation, those who feel a wave of anxiety envelop them every time an email comes with the words "fork in the road," and those who are struggling to maintain hope when the ground beneath them seems to shift each day.

We light this candle proclaiming that the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never overcome the light. May Jesus strengthen us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Let us know you are here by going to www.allendaleumc.org/here or by filling out the attendance pad in your row.

PRELUDE Allendale Band
O Perfect Love |Lani Smith|

WELCOME Rev. Andy Oliver
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LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE, PEACE, & JUSTICE Congregation

SONG Allendale Band
Christ, Your Words of Love Confound Us |Carolyn Winfrey Gillette|

CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER Eric Schlecht

SONG Allendale Band
We Resist |Mark Miller|

TIME WITH CHILDREN Rev. Andy Oliver

OFFERING Congregation
We Are One |Angélique Kidjo|
give online at www.allendaleumc.org/give

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Eric Schlecht

SONG Allendale Band
I Need You To Survive |Hezekiah Walker|

SCRIPTURE Eric Schlecht
Luke 6:27-38

SERMON Rev. Andy Oliver

SONG Allendale Band
Higher Ground |Stevie Wonder|

CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY Rev. Andy Oliver

BENEDICTION Eric Schlecht

POSTLUDE Allendale Band
Glory and Majesty |Moore|



LUKE 6:27-38

There is an unexpected way about The Gospel. People aren't in the places you think they should be. The inheritance doesn't go to the people it usually does. Love goes to enemies and left cheeks offered to the people who slapped the right. Lenders are expected to forgive debts. It's like the world turns... upside-down. Our faith calls us to do things backwards from how they're conventionally done. In order to do that successfully, we will need to resist the forces that want things to remain as they are. What if the status-quo is backwards? If we serve a God of resurrection, we can turn it right-side-up.

Image from Unsplash

Liturgy from Enfleshed (portions adapted by Allendale)

Rev. Andy Oliver, Pastor | andy@allendaleumc.org

Rev. David Franks, Minister of Pastoral Support | david@allendaleumc.org

Diana Ong, Church Administrator | diana@allendaleumc.org

Terry Fitzgerald, Director of Development | terry@allendaleumc.org

Tru Mizzell, Director of Music Development | tru@allendaleumc.org

Cameron Helwege, Creative Director | cameron@allendaleumc.org

Dylan Dames, Music and Organizing Associate | dylan@allendaleumc.org

Aaron Bennett, Maintenance | aaron@allendaleumc.org

Bill Lee | Organist

Campbell Horn, Dylan Dames | Youth Directors

Michaela George, Erin Giblin, Courtney Ross, | Nursery Attendants

Dr. Kate Pravera | Theologian in Residence

All of us in the Congregation | Ministers of the Gospel

THIS WEEK

Sun Feb 23

9 AM Grief Support Group (Wesley)

10:30 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)

3 PM Celebration of Life Ruth Spangler (Sanct.)

5:30 PM Youth Group (Wesley, Kitchen, Youth)

Mon Feb 24

6 PM Scripture Class (Zoom)

Tue Feb 25

Wed Feb 26

5 PM Wednesday Night Dinner (CC)

6 PM Theology Class (CC)

Thu Feb 27

Fri Feb 28

Sat Mar 1

Sun Mar 2

10:30 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)

5:30 PM Youth Group (Wesley, Kitchen, Youth)

Recovery and Support Groups meet often at Allendale and are now listed on their own calendar: www.allendaleumc.org/recovery.

ONGOING CLASSES

Grief Support Group - 2/23 & 3/9 at 9 AM
This class meets every other Sunday

Scripture Class on Zoom - Mon at 6 PM
Join via Zoom: www.allendaleumc.org/online

Wednesday Night Dinner & Classes
Dinner at 5 PM, Classes at 6 PM

*Doing Theology at Allendale - Wed at 6 PM
Classes meet in the Community Center
Led by Dr. Kate Pravera and Dylan Dames.*

DINNER MENU

Dinner starts at 5 PM in the Community Center. \$10 or whatever you can afford. Vegetarian or Vegan options are always available.

Wed Feb 26

Penne Arrabiatta (Angry Sauce) Italian

Sausage, Italian Green Beans, Ciabatta Bread,

Caesar Salad, Dessert Dish, Vegetarian Option